



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Press Service



MEMORANDUM TO Mr. Cheesman, Biological Survey.

I am sending you 3 copies of the news item entitled

"HOW TO CONTROL FIELD MICE DESCRIBED IN NEW BULLETIN"

which we mailed today. It was distributed as checked below:

Department officials and others who receive
copies of all releases to the press.

Farm Papers.

Farm Editions of Daily Papers.

:Full List.

Daily Newspapers :One in a city--all cities

:One in a city--in all cities having more
than one daily.

:Full List.

Sunday Editions of Dailies :One in a city.

Washington Correspondents and free lance writers.

Gardening Journals

Orchard

Florists' Papers

Trade Papers as follows.

Grain & Milling

Nursery Publications

Please forward a copy of this item to the office in your bureau

directly interested.

If additional copies of any article originating in your bureau are desired please attach request for them to the manuscript when it is approved in your office. If you are unable to anticipate such a need, please request the desired number of copies immediately upon receipt of this memorandum.

Yours very truly,
F. M. RUSSELL,
In charge,
Press Service.

APR 10 1924

Copy sent Mr. and Mrs. Silver



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Press Service



Release - Immediate

April 15, 1924.

HOW TO CONTROL FIELD MICE
DESCRIBED IN NEW BULLETIN

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Thousands of valuable orchard trees are killed by field mice every year throughout the United States. Damage amounting to millions of dollars annually is also inflicted by mice on pasturage, forage, grain, and other crops, and on tubers, small fruits, flowering plants, and shrubbery. By the use of proper control methods much of this loss might be prevented. In a new Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1397, Mouse Control in Field and Orchard, James Silver, of the Biological Survey, describes the meadow mice and pine mice which inflict most of the damage, and explains why different control methods are needed with each species.

The control of field mice in orchards should be undertaken at stated intervals as a regular feature of orchard practice, just as spraying is done to combat insect pests or fruit diseases. Methods of preventing injury in orchards may be grouped in 4 classes: Removing mouse shelter; treating trees with washes to repel mice; inclosing trees with mechanical protectors; and killing the mice. Mechanical protectors and clean cultivation around trees are successful aids to meadow-mouse control, but have very little effect on pine mice, which do not rely on surface vegetation for food or protection.

The two practical methods of destroying both meadow mice and pine mice are trapping and poisoning. Field mice are very readily caught in strong mouse traps and are usually exterminated by persistent trapping. The labor involved on a large area, however, makes this method costly. The use of poison is by far the most satisfactory way of controlling field mice. The Biological Survey has developed several successful formulas for preparing baits and gives these in the bulletin, together with directions for distributing them.

Certain birds and other animals habitually feed on field mice and aid in their control. These, according to the bulletin, should be protected as far as possible. When field mice become so excessively abundant as to menace the fruit trees and crops of a whole community, concerted effort is required to control the situation of all the residents. The Biological Survey stands ready to assist as far as possible in the organization of any necessary campaigns over large areas.